2015 PIT Summary for Snohomish County

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Introduction

The local Point in Time count (PIT) has been conducted on a single night in January annually since 2006. This is not an exhaustive census of homeless persons and should instead be considered an indicator of overall trends.

The PIT consists of a sheltered count which assesses how many people are staying in homeless housing, in addition to an unsheltered count. Trained volunteers, working in pairs, utilize surveys to conduct the unsheltered count. These volunteers respectfully visit encampments, food banks, and community resource locations, while also attempting to locate new areas of activity. Volunteers typically work three hour shifts between 8:00am and 8:00pm in a quadrant of their choosing, with supervisors ensuring adequate coverage. Individuals contacted by volunteers have the option to decline an interview.

The sheltered count is generated through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), into which agencies continuously enter client level data about persons in homeless projects, such as emergency shelter. Locally, persons who are precariously housed are also surveyed.

Data Quality Methodology

To prevent double counting of individuals, changes were made locally for the 2015 count, in line with updated HUD standards. The first 2 letters of the first & last name, along with a middle initial, and a date of birth were logged for each homeless individual at the time of this year's survey. In 2014 only the first initial for an individual's first, middle, and last name were collected along with their age (not date of birth). As in previous years, the county was divided into four quadrants with each volunteer working in only one defined area under the direction of a volunteer supervisor.

There are three essential data elements to validate a survey and include the information. 86 surveys were excluded as they lacked at least one of these elements:

- No "date of birth" – adult/child status could not be determined
- No "last night city" – could not determine jurisdiction
- No "prior residence" – could not determine if literally homeless.

A further 211 surveys were removed as last night's stay was not unsheltered[1].

% of Surveys with Essential Missing Data by Quadrant

North — 19%
South — 18%
Central — 12%
East — 3%

Those individuals whose last night stay was included under the precariously housed definition[2], were included in the locally provided precariously housed count of 137.

Another 87 records were determined to be ineligible as these were either duplicate surveys or the respondent stayed outside of Snohomish County the night prior.

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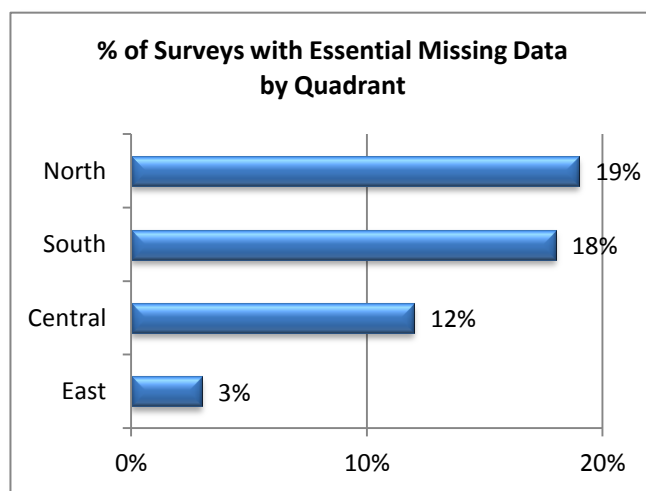
[1] "Unsheltered" – to spend the night prior on the streets, in an abandoned building, car, or other place not meant for human habitation.
[2] "Precariously housed" – temporarily living with family or friends, jail, or in a hotel/motel without an emergency shelter voucher.

Summary

On January 22nd, 2015, a point in time count showed that 966 persons in 743 households did not have a permanent place to stay.

- Under the age of 18
    - 200 youth
    - 42 of those were unaccompanied youth
    - 158 were in families with children
- Veterans
    - 68 total
    - 2 were female veterans
    - 11 Veterans were chronically homeless
- Serious Mental Illness
    - 188 adults
    - 97 were unsheltered
    - 17 were precariously housed
- Victims of domestic violence
    - 122 victims
    - 50 were unsheltered
    - 15 were precariously housed
- HIV+
    - 10 total respondents
    - 6 were unsheltered

Key Terms

#Sheltered: Spent the night prior to the survey in emergency shelter or transitional housing

#Unsheltered: Spent the night prior to the survey on the streets, in an abandoned building, car, or other place not meant for human habitation.
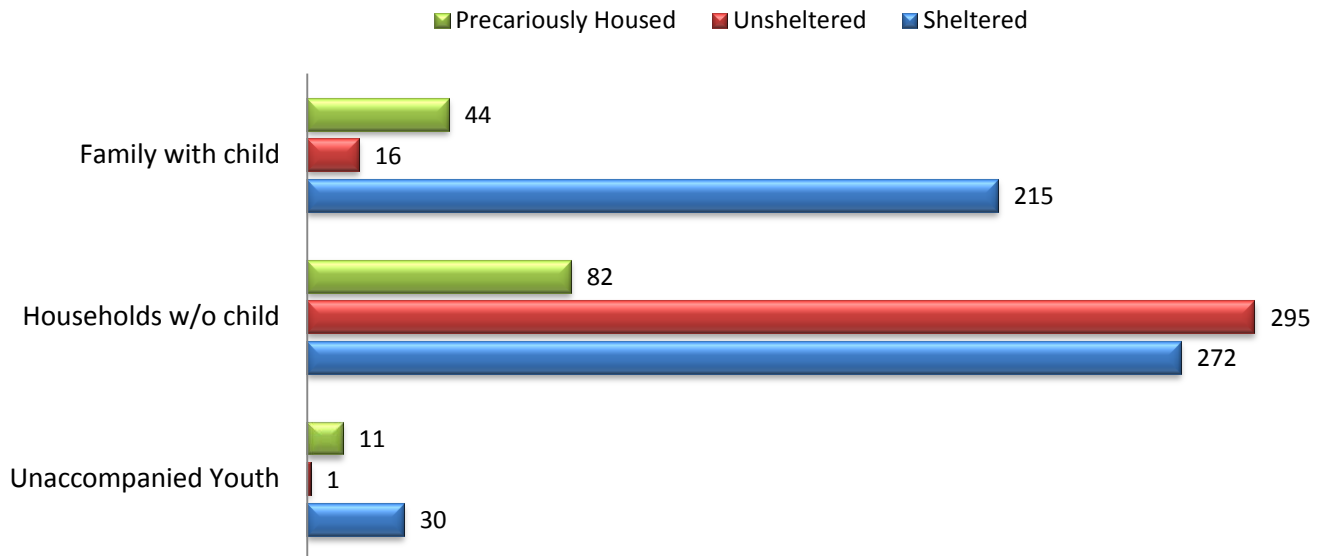
#Precariously Housed: temporarily living with family or friends, jail, hotel or motel paid for by self.

#Chronically Homeless: An individual or family with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years.

PIT Summary for Individuals & Households

2015 PIT Summary for Persons in Households

Legend: ■ Precariously Housed   ■ Unsheltered   ■ Sheltered

Family with child
- Precariously Housed: 44
- Unsheltered: 16
- Sheltered: 215

Households w/o child
- Precariously Housed: 82
- Unsheltered: 295
- Sheltered: 272

Unaccompanied Youth
- Precariously Housed: 11
- Unsheltered: 1
- Sheltered: 30

Persons in Households

Legend: ■ Sheltered   ■ Unsheltered   ■ Precariously Housed

- 137 (14%)
- 312 (32%)
- 517 (54%)
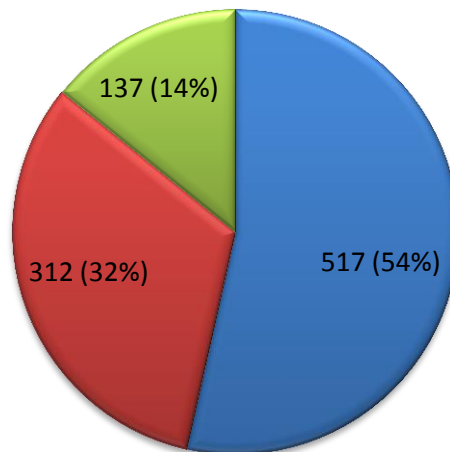
2015 PIT Summary for Households

Legend: ■ Precariously Housed ■ Unsheltered ■ Sheltered

Family with child
- 13 (Precariously Housed)
- 5 (Unsheltered)
- 75 (Sheltered)

Households w/o child
- 78 (Precariously Housed)
- 262 (Unsheltered)
- 272 (Sheltered)

Unaccompanied Youth
- 10 (Precariously Housed)
- 1 (Unsheltered)
- 27 (Sheltered)

Households by Type

Legend: ■ Sheltered ■ Unsheltered ■ Precariously Housed

- 374 (50%)
- 268 (36%)
- 101 (14%)
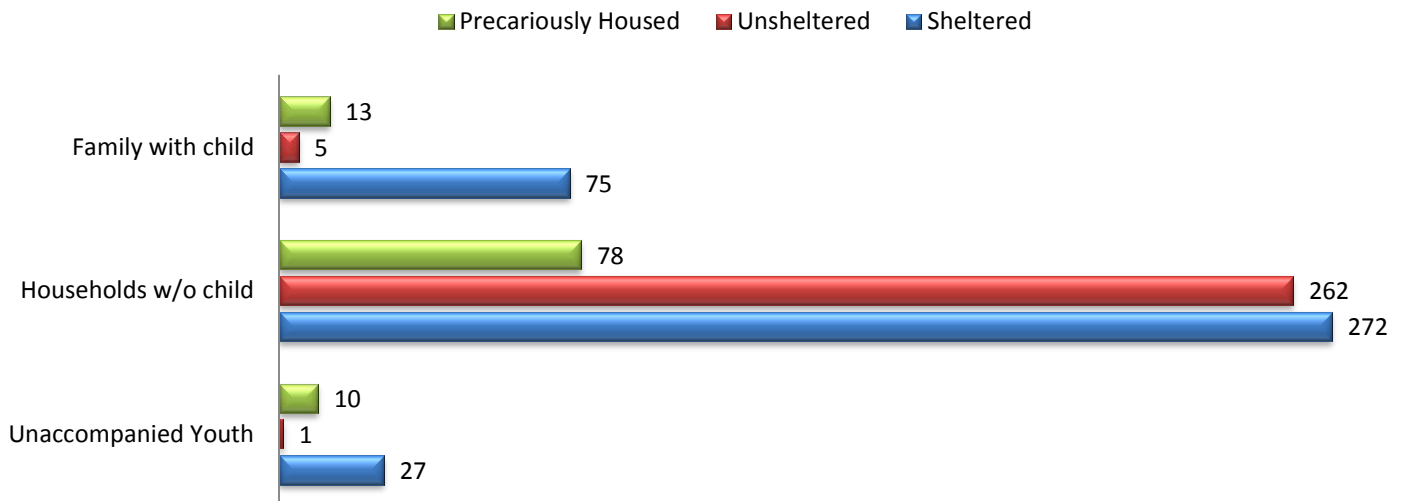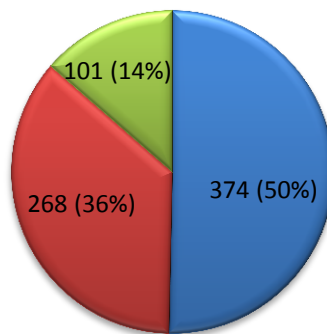
Households by Composition

Legend: ■ Households with Children ■ Households without Children ■ Unaccompanied Youth

- 93
- 612
- 38
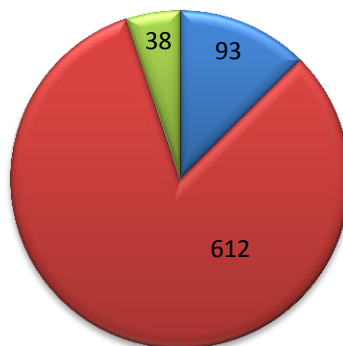
Unsheltered Breakout

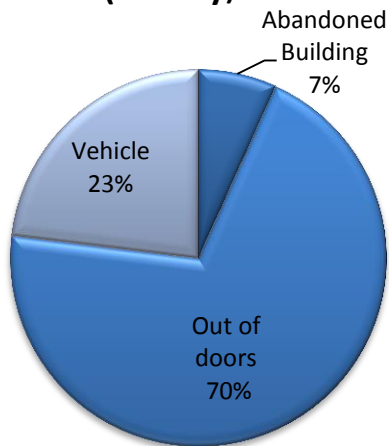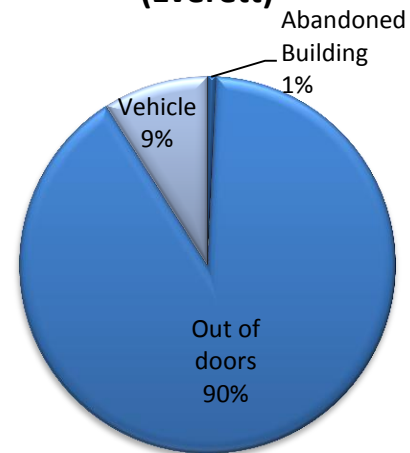| Last Night City	Abandoned Building	Out of Doors (street, tent, etc.)	Vehicle (car, travel trailer, etc.)	Total	Percent of Total
Arlington	1	9	9	19	6%
Bothell	0	1	0	1	0%
Edmonds	0	2	2	4	1%
Everett	1	123	12	136	44%
Gold Bar	0	0	1	1	0%
Granite Falls	0	1	8	9	3%
Index	0	3	4	7	2%
Lake Stevens	0	0	4	4	1%
Lynnwood	3	15	12	30	10%
Marysville	7	27	8	42	13%
Mill Creek	0	2	0	2	1%
Monroe	1	17	6	24	8%
Mountlake Terrace	0	3	0	3	1%
Smokey Point	1	3	0	4	1%
Snohomish	0	11	3	14	4%
Sultan	4	1	0	5	2%
Tulalip	3	2	2	7	2%
Totals	**21**	**220**	**71**	**312**	**100%**

Unsheltered Type by Percentage (County)

Abandoned Building 7%
Vehicle 23%
Out of doors 70%

Unsheltered Type by Percentage (Everett)

Abandoned Building 1%
Vehicle 9%
Out of doors 90%

Basic Demographics

Race

Race	Percentage
White	74%
Unknown	5%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific...	2%
Multi-Racial	5%
Black or African American	10%
Asian	1%
American Indian or Alaska Native	2%
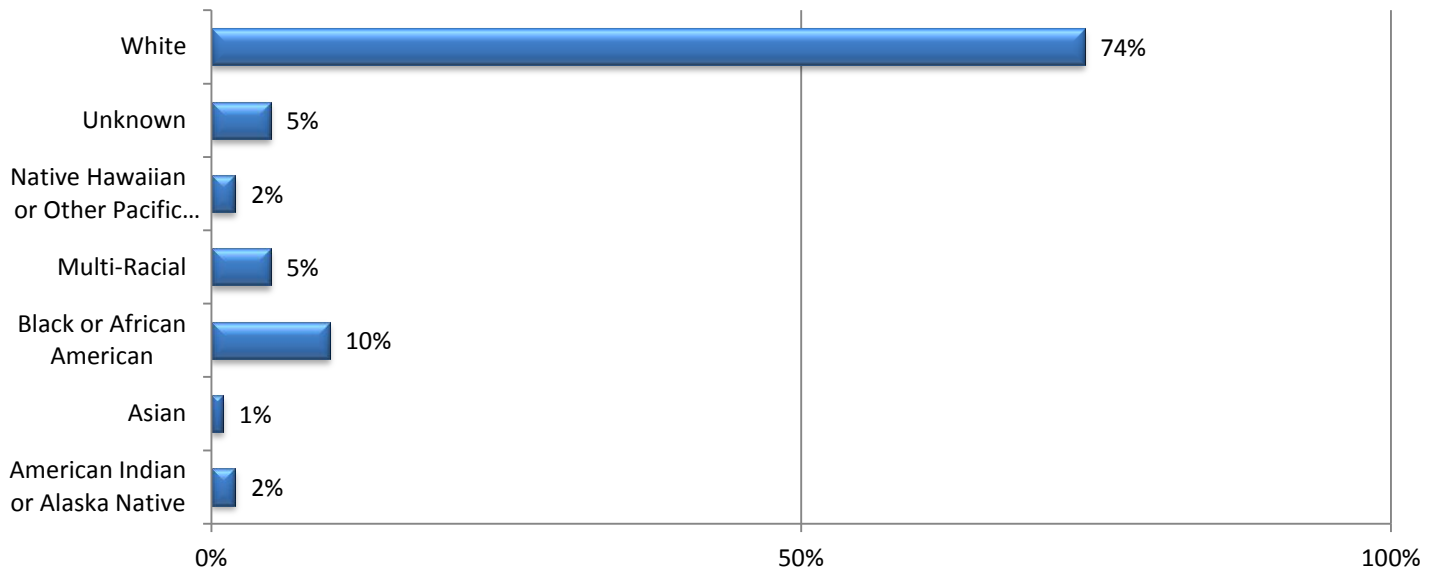
Ethnicity

Hispanic/Latino   Non Hispanic/Latino   Unknown

- Hispanic/Latino: 5%
- Non Hispanic/Latino: 82%
- Unknown: 13%
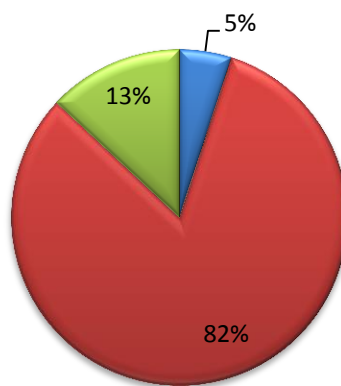
The demographics charts include sheltered and unsheltered populations. This is the second year in which we were required to collect and report on race & ethnicity.

Respondents who identified as a racial minority comprised 21% of the total sheltered population and 4% of the total unsheltered population

Age if reported, all populations for sheltered and unsheltered counts.

Legend: ■ Unsheltered ■ Sheltered

Age	Unsheltered	Sheltered
0 to 5	6	75
6 to 11	2	35
12 to 17	2	44
18 to 24	41	46
25 to 30	45	55
31 to 50	141	145
51 to 61	68	81
62 +	7	18
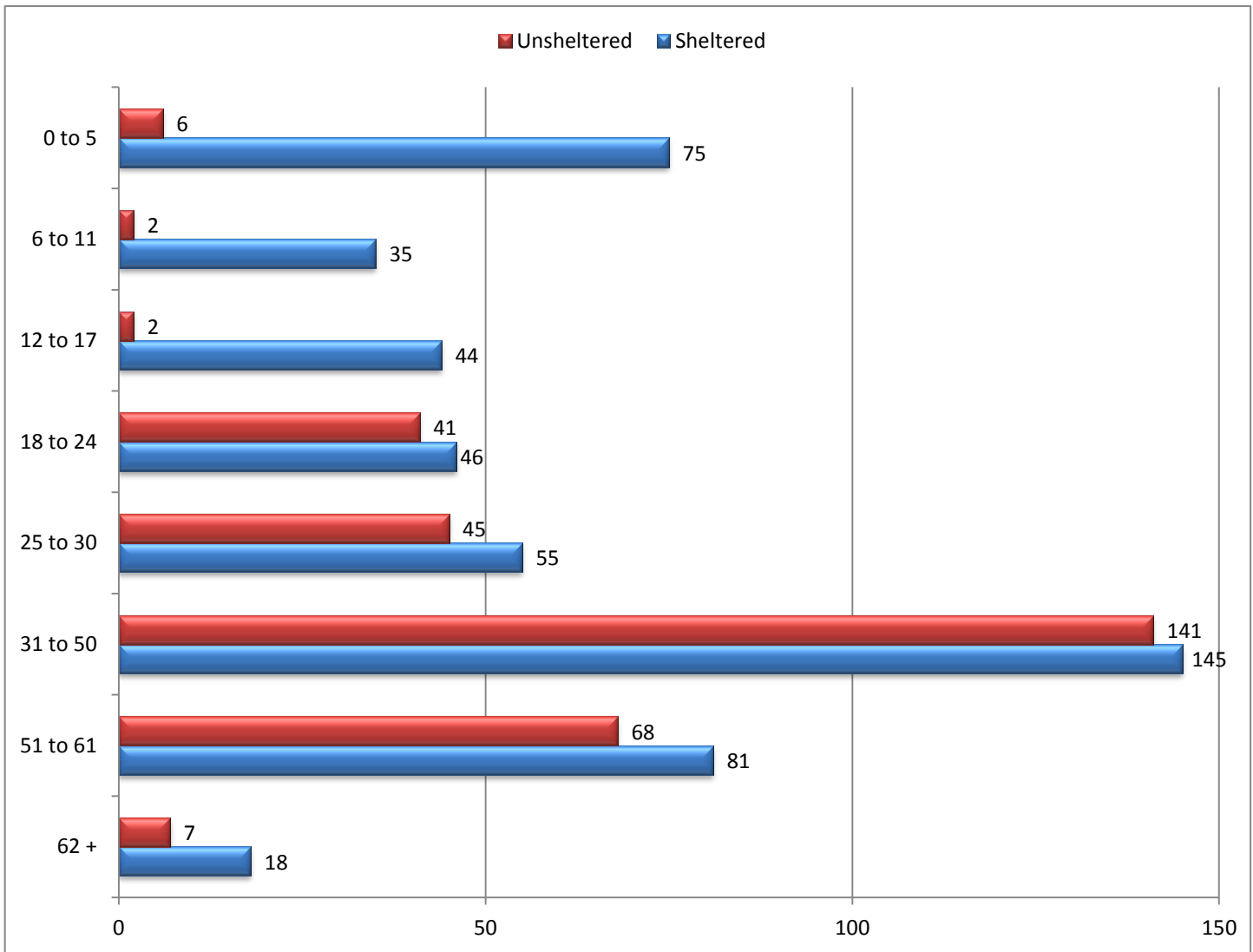
Household Size by Housing Category

Unsheltered ■ **Sheltered**

Household Size	Unsheltered	Sheltered
6 person	0	3
5 person	0	4
4 person	2	10
3 person	6	22
2 person	27	37
1 person	233	279
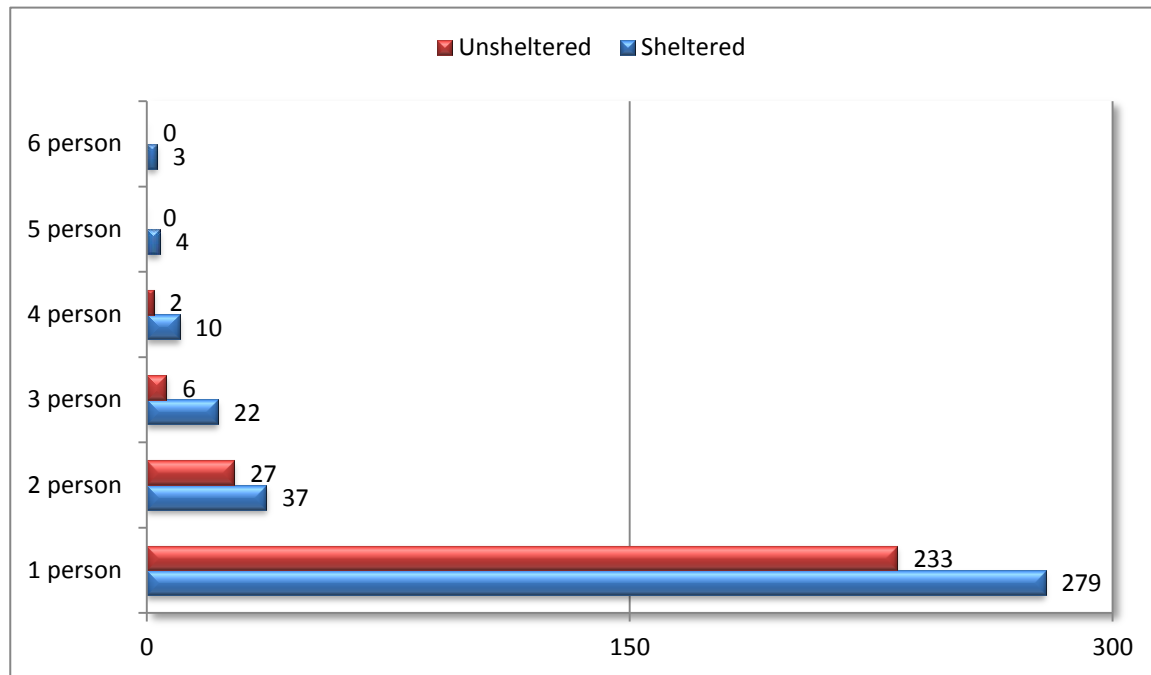
*No families reported 7 or more persons in their household this year.

Reported Gender by Housing Category

Gender options for 2015 were: 'male', 'female', 'transgender (male to female)', 'transgender (female to male)', and 'refused to specify'. No individuals identified as transgendered in 2015.

Unsheltered ■ **Sheltered**

Gender	Unsheltered	Sheltered
Female	83	218
Male	226	279
Refused	3	20
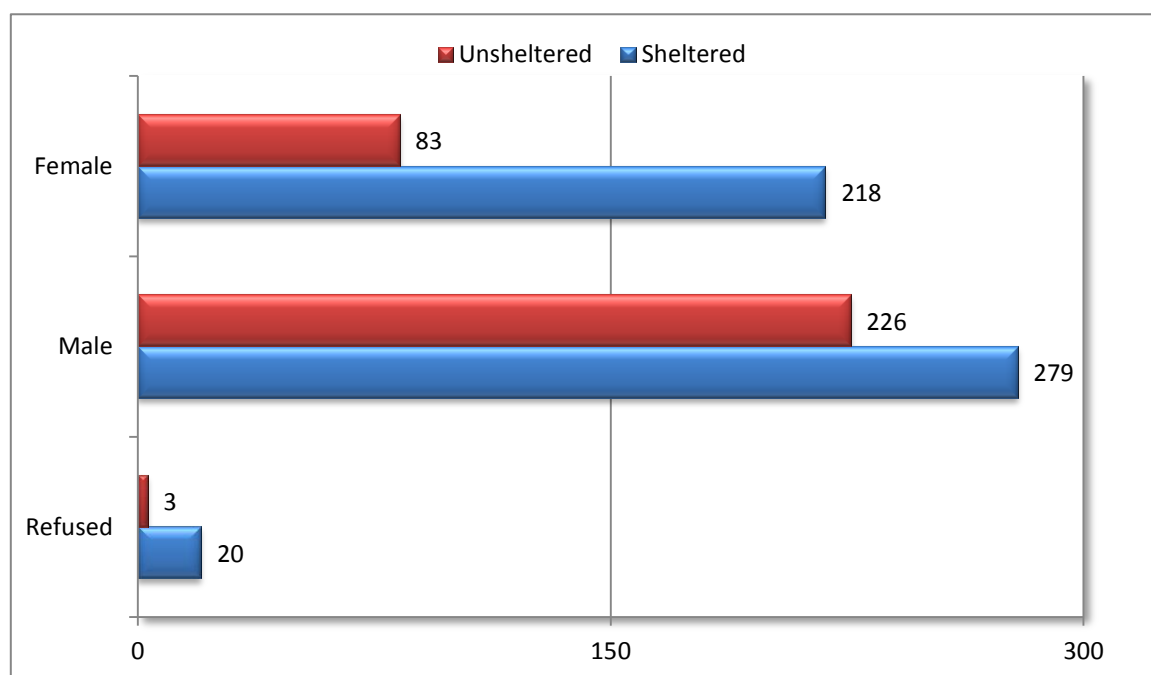
Unsheltered Last Permanent Residence and Cause of Homelessness

Unsheltered - Last Reported Permanent Residence

Total

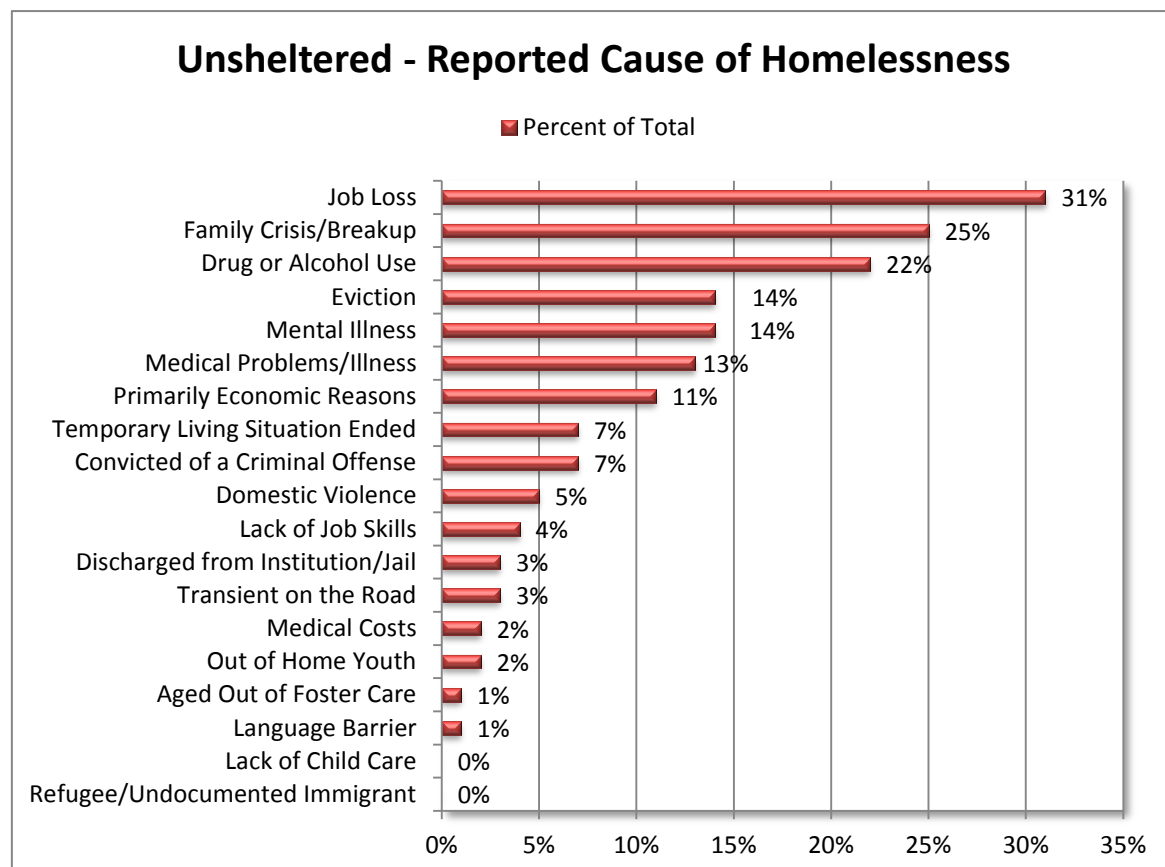| Location	Total
Arlington	15
Bothell	1
Edmonds	4
Everett	102
Granite Falls	7
Index	5
Lake Stevens	5
Lynnwood	16
Marysville	21
Mill Creek	6
Monroe	16
Mountlake Terrace	1
Outside of County	28
Snohomish	12
Stanwood	2
Sultan	6
Tulalip	2
Unknown/Refused	63
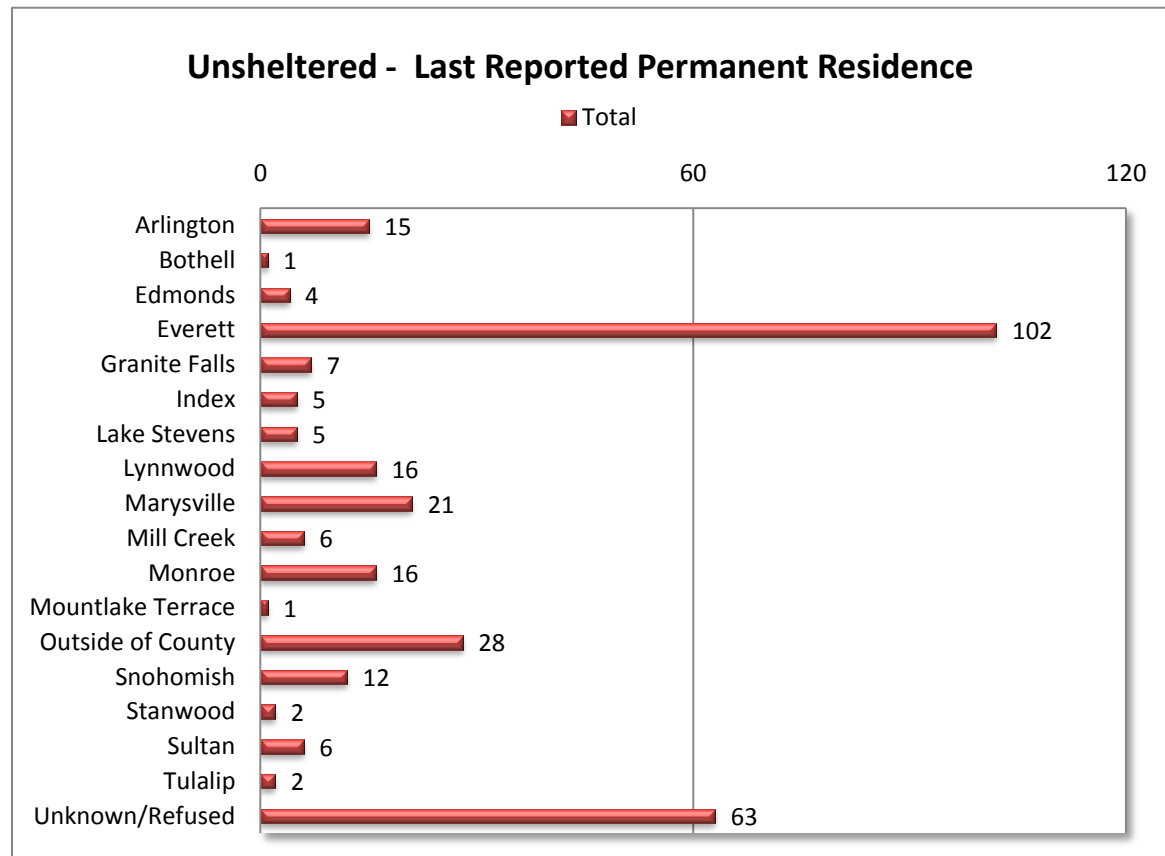
*Chart includes only areas with at least one response

Unsheltered - Reported Cause of Homelessness

Percent of Total

Cause	Percent of Total
Job Loss	31%
Family Crisis/Breakup	25%
Drug or Alcohol Use	22%
Eviction	14%
Mental Illness	14%
Medical Problems/Illness	13%
Primarily Economic Reasons	11%
Temporary Living Situation Ended	7%
Convicted of a Criminal Offense	7%
Domestic Violence	5%
Lack of Job Skills	4%
Discharged from Institution/Jail	3%
Transient on the Road	3%
Medical Costs	2%
Out of Home Youth	2%
Aged Out of Foster Care	1%
Language Barrier	1%
Lack of Child Care	0%
Refugee/Undocumented Immigrant	0%

Top Causes of Homelessness

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Job Loss	Job Loss	Job Loss	Job Loss	Job Loss
Unable to pay rent or mortgage	Unable to pay rent or mortgage	Unable to pay rent or mortgage	Family Crisis/Breakup	Family Crisis/Breakup
Drug or alcohol use	Drug or alcohol use	Drug or alcohol use	Drug or alcohol use	Drug or alcohol use
Mental health issues	Family break-up	Family break-up	Permanent Physical Disability	Mental Illness
Family break-up	Mental health issues	Mental health issues	Primarily economic reasons	Eviction
Kicked out of home	Kicked out of home	Kicked out of home	Medical problems/illness	Medical problems/illness
Medical problems/illness	Temporary living situation ended	Medical problems/illness	Eviction	Primarily economic reasons

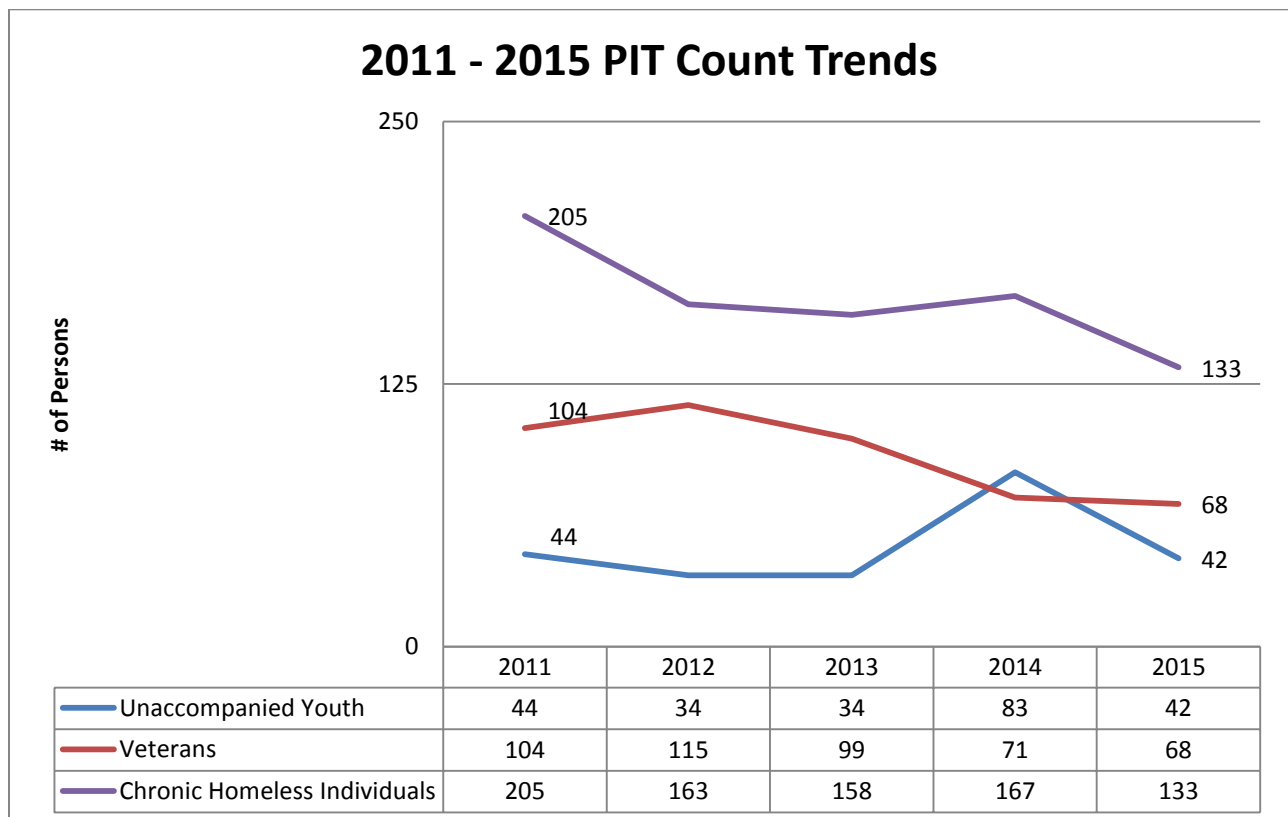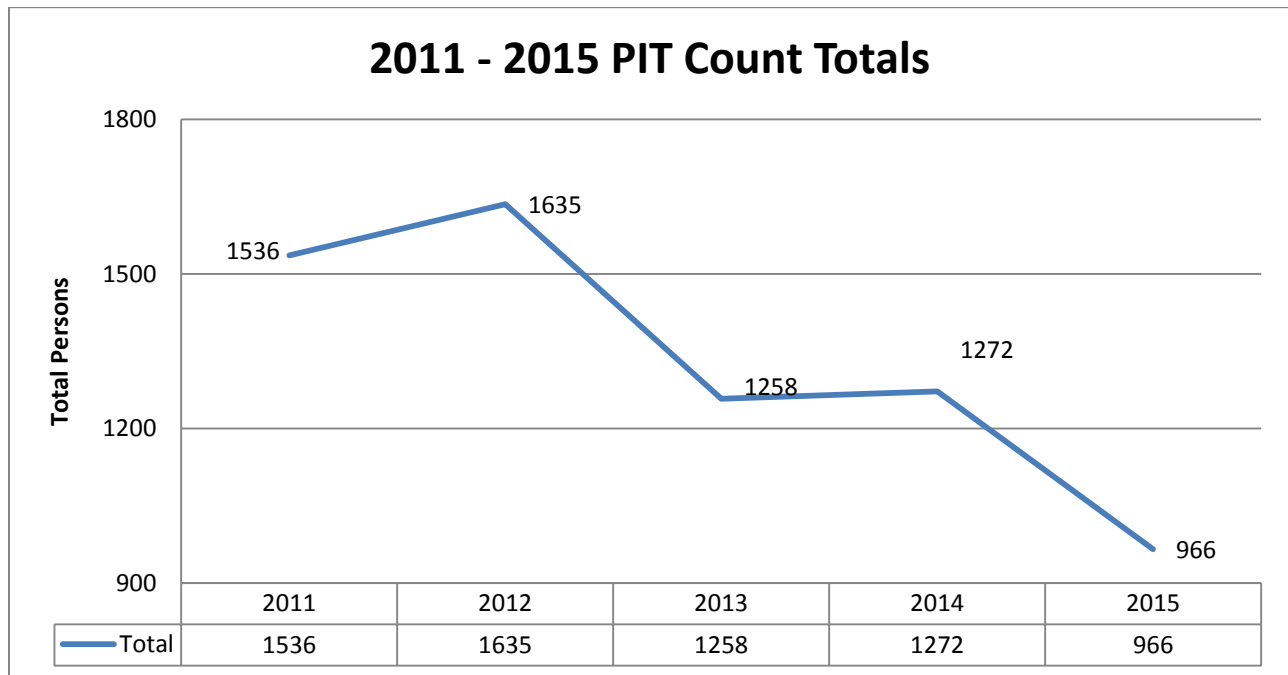## Conditions and Barriers
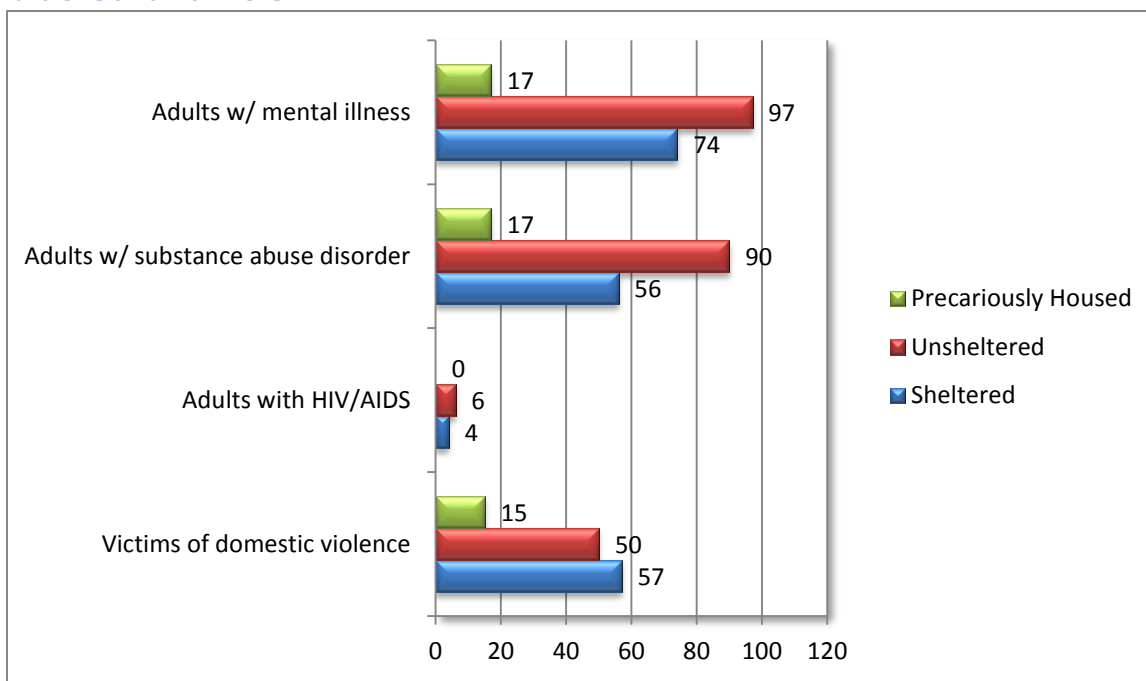
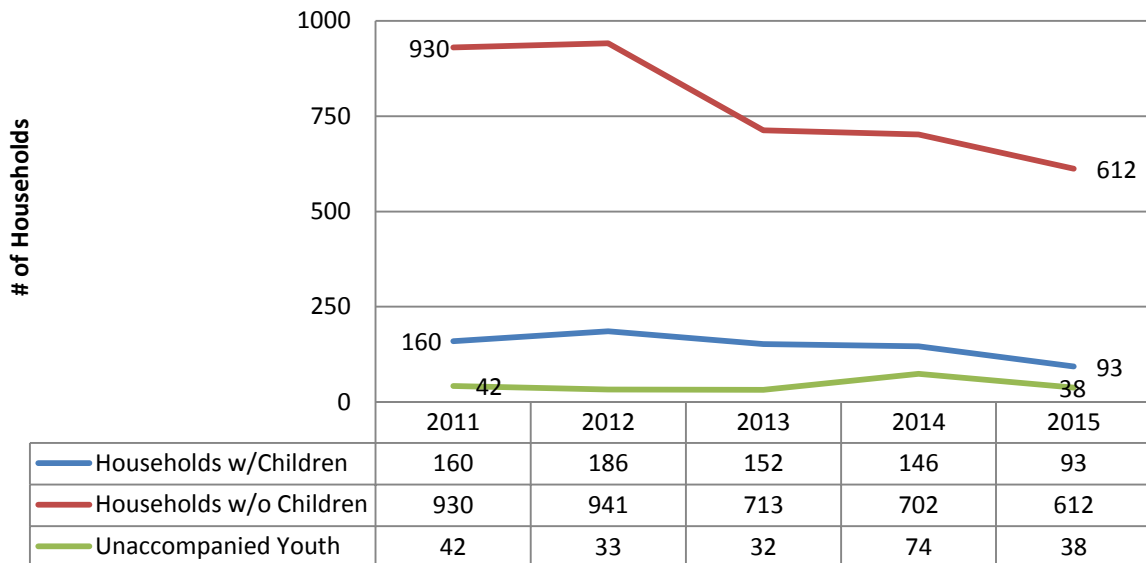### Other Reported Barriers – Unsheltered Populations

Data collected from unsheltered populations demonstrated other significant barriers:

- 89 (29%) were experiencing chronic health conditions
- 71 (23%) reported a permanent physical disability
- 21 (7%) of the unsheltered had a developmental disability

2011 - 2015 PIT Trends

2011 - 2015 PIT Count Totals

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total	1536	1635	1258	1272	966

2011 - 2015 PIT Count Trends

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Unaccompanied Youth	44	34	34	83	42
Veterans	104	115	99	71	68
Chronic Homeless Individuals	205	163	158	167	133

Total Households by Household Type

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Households w/Children	160	186	152	146	93
Households w/o Children	930	941	713	702	612
Unaccompanied Youth	42	33	32	74	38

Total Households by Housing Status

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Sheltered	419	310	396	370	374
Unsheltered	493	542	303	322	268
Precariously Housed	220	201	198	232	101
Total	1132	1053	897	924	743
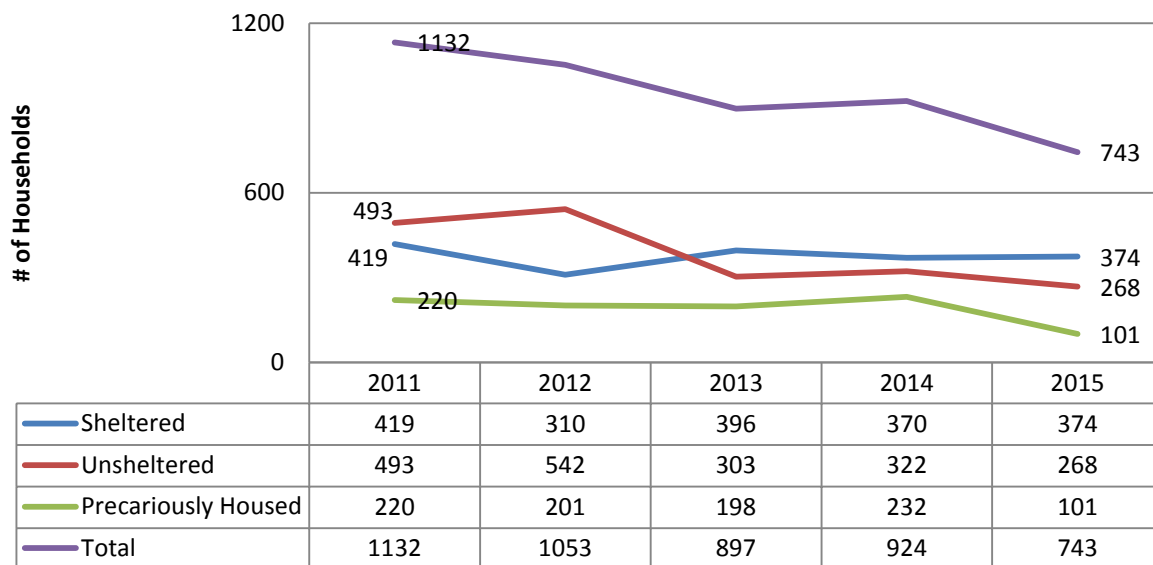
During the 2011 and 2012 PIT counts, the use of "tic sheets" were phased out. This allowed for better de-duplication. In 2013 guidance from HUD stated that transitional housing[3] which utilized project based vouchers[4] could not be considered transitional and must be reclassified. Persons in transitional housing are considered homeless, whereas persons in permanent housing are not. This greatly impacted the number of persons who would be reported going forward.

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[3] "Transitional Housing" – housing which is limited to 24 months
[4] "Project Based Vouchers" – a permanent housing rental subsidy